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ENG 2009-001: Literature and Human Values: Love, Hate, Obsession

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ENGLISH 2009.001

LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES: LOVE, HATE, OBSESSION

SPRING 2001

Dr. Angela Vietto

581-6293 / cfarv@eiu.edu

Office: 314G Coleman Hall

Office hours: MWF 11-11:50; R 10-12; and by appointment

Class web site: <http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfarv/2009.html>

Texts

Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Lewis, *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*

Norris, *McTeague*

Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*

Shaffer, *Amadeus*

Shakespeare, *Othello*

Other readings to be distributed in class and on class web site

Objectives

As a general education class, this course is designed to help you improve your abilities to

- write and speak effectively,
- think critically, and
- function as a responsible citizen.

In addition, because it is a literature class, this course will allow you to begin to explore the intellectual questions that are specific to the study of literature, including the concept of genre and the value of expression and creativity.

Procedures

Achieving these goals will require

- Reading the assigned texts carefully and taking notes to aid your memory as necessary
- Thinking about the material you have read and questions that you are given or that you develop about those materials
- Sharing your thoughts about the readings with the rest of the class
- Listening to and responding thoughtfully to others' comments in class
- Formulating ideas and writing papers, quizzes, and exams in response to the readings
- Paying attention and, depending on your learning style, taking notes in class

Conversation

Above all, a course like this should be an opportunity to participate in lively discussion with your classmates—and with the authors whose works we will read. You should, sometimes, feel challenged to provide evidence for your point of view. Our goal should be to have conversation that does challenge us—without losing sight of civility. Let's debate, but let's also remember that everyone in the room deserves our equal respect.

POLICIES

Grading

Class discussion	15%
Quizzes/in-class writings	15%
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	15%
Mid-Term Exam	10%
Final Exam	15%

Class

Discussion

The class discussion grade will be based on the following factors:

- the ***frequency*** with which you participate in discussion
- the ***quality*** of your contributions
- the extent to which you pay attention to and respond to the questions and comments of others in the class (not just the instructor)

If you find it especially difficult to speak in class, meet with me or email me as soon as possible to discuss your situation. I am happy to work with you to improve your ability to participate, and to make it a profitable and, I hope, even enjoyable experience.

Attendance

Missing class will obviously impair your ability to participate in class discussion and to receive full credit for the 15% of the grade devoted to class discussion. In addition, excessive unexcused absences (more than three over the course of the semester) can negatively affect your grade **beyond** the 15% participation grade.

I will mark excused absences due to illness for which you can provide a doctor's note; official University business of which I am notified by the appropriate office; and other serious, unavoidable occurrences on a case-by-case basis.

Late or

Missed Work

When you miss class, it is your responsibility to talk to me about making up work.

- Missed quizzes, exams, or in-class writings must be made up within one week of your return to class.
- If you know you will not be able to turn in a paper on the day it is due, contact me about an extension **before** the due date.
- Work that is turned in late without a previously approved extension will have the grade reduced by a half letter grade for each day it is late.

Academic

Honesty

Dishonesty of any kind in this course can result in a failing grade for the course.

Disability

Information

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Schedule of Classes

Notes: Readings are to be completed before class on the day on which they are listed.

PHRR = *Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader*

Date	Readings for Discussion	Exams/Papers Due
M Jan 8	Introduction	
Unit One: LOVE		
W Jan 10	Selections from Song of Songs and Corinthians (hand out/web site)	
F Jan 12	Shakespeare sonnets; song lyrics (hand out/web site)	
M Jan 15	MLK Birthday Observed—NO CLASS	
W Jan 17	In PHRR: "I Want to Die While You Love Me" p. 275; "Sonnet to a Negro in Harlem" p. 277; "La Vie C'est La Vie" p. 254; "Black Woman," p. 274	
F Jan 19	King, "Love, Law, and Civil Disobedience" (hand out/web site)	
M Jan 22	King, continued	
W Jan 24	Salinger, <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> , chapters 1-10	
F Jan 26	Salinger, <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> , chapters 11-18	
M Jan 29	Salinger, <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> , chapters 19-26	
W Jan 31	Selections from Dickens, <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (hand out)	
F Feb 2	Film: <i>Ground Hog's Day</i>	
Unit Two: HATE		
M Feb 5	Selection from Genesis (hand out/web site)	Essay One due in class
W Feb 7	<i>Amadeus</i>	
F Feb 9	<i>Amadeus</i>	
M Feb 12	<i>Amadeus</i> and in PHRR, "Yet Do I Marvel" p. 244	
W Feb 14	Poe, "Cask of Amontillado" (hand out/web site)	
F Feb 16	Lincoln's Birthday Observed—NO CLASS	
M Feb 19	Exam	Mid-Term Exam
W Feb 21	Hawthorne, "Rappaccini's Daughter" (hand out/web site)	
F Feb 23	Selections from <i>Mein Kampf</i> (hand out/web site)	
M Feb 26	Film: <i>Birth of a Nation</i>	
W Feb 28	Film: <i>Birth of a Nation</i>	

Schedule of Classes, continued

Date	Readings for Discussion	Exams/Papers Due
Unit Three: OBSESSION		
F Mar 2	"The Bishop Directs His Tomb," "My Last Duchess," (handout/web site), "Heritage" (PHRR, pp. 244-247)	Essay Two due in class
M Mar 5	Poe, "The Raven" (hand out/web site)	
W Mar 7	Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener" (web site)	
F Mar 9	Excerpt from Larsen, <i>Passing</i> (PHRR, pp. 460-485)	
Mar 12-16	Spring Recess—NO CLASS	
M Mar 19	Norris, <i>McTeague</i> , I-V	
W Mar 21	<i>McTeague</i> , VI-VIII	
F Mar 23	<i>McTeague</i> , IX-X	
M Mar 26	<i>McTeague</i> , XI-XIII	
W Mar 28	<i>McTeague</i> , XIV-XIX	
F Mar 30	<i>McTeague</i> , XX-XXII	
Unit Four: LOVE, HATE, OBSESSION		
M Apr 2	Introduction to <i>Othello</i>	Essay Three due in class
W Apr 4	<i>Othello</i> , Acts I-III	
F Apr 6	<i>Othello</i> , Acts IV-V	
M Apr 9	<i>Othello</i> , discussion continued	
W Apr 11	Ellison, <i>Invisible Man</i> , Prologue and Chapters 1-2	
F Apr 13	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 3-6	
M Apr 16	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 7-10	
W Apr 18	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 11-14	
F Apr 20	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 15-17	
M Apr 23	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 18-22	
W Apr 25	<i>Invisible Man</i> , Chapters 23-Epilogue	
F Apr 27	Course conclusion	

Final exam as announced in the University schedule.